

<b>Procedure No.</b> HSE-I-P001		<b>King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)</b> <b>Subject:</b> KAUST Respiratory Protection Program <b>Issuing Dept.:</b> Health, Safety & Environment	
<b>Issue Date:</b> March 2020	<b>Replaces:</b> NEW		
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## APPENDIX C: VOLUNTARY USE OF RESPIRATORS

These guidelines are only applicable to employees who wish to use respirators voluntary, that is, for their own comfort or sense of wellbeing even when there is no recognized hazard are authorized under the following requirements.

### Voluntary use of N95/P100 dust masks (filtering facepiece respirators)

Two requirements must be met for the use of N95/P100 dust masks (NIOSH/ EU approved):

1. A risk assessment conducted by the PI, LSR and/or HSE to ensure that the masks themselves do not pose a hazard to the employee.
2. Employees are provided with information about the use of respirators and acknowledged that they understand the information by completing the *Acknowledgement of Voluntary Use of Respirators* (see below), which must be maintained by the LSR or provided to HSE for documentation.


Employees are not required to complete a medical screening/evaluation or a fit test for voluntary use of a N95 dust mask.

### Voluntary use of elastomeric tight-fitting respirators (other than N95/P100 dust masks)

For voluntary use of elastomeric respirators (e.g. air purifying half/full face) other than N95 dust masks, the following requirements must be met:

1. A risk assessment conducted by the PI, LSR and/or HSE to ensure that the respirators themselves do not pose a hazard to the employee.
2. Complete Respiratory Protection Training.
3. Complete the *Acknowledgement of Voluntary Use of Respirators* form, which must be maintained by the LSR or provided to HSE for documentation.
4. Complete a medical evaluation to ensure the employee is medically qualified to wear respirators. The medical evaluation requirements are the same as in Section 11.
5. Ensure that the respirators are properly cleaned, stored, and maintained.

Because the elastomeric tight-fitting respirators place a much greater physiological burden on employees, HSE believes that by requiring employees to complete the above requirements for voluntary use, it will ensure that the respirator is used properly and does not create a hazard to the users. In addition, all respirators and respirator cartridges must be NIOSH/EU approved.

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## Acknowledgement of Voluntary Use of Respirators

As an employee, you may choose to wear a respirator on a voluntary basis even when there is no exposure risk or when the exposure level is below the Occupational Exposure Limits (OELs). In accordance with King Abdullah University of Science and Technology Respiratory Protection Program, this information is provided to you if you choose to wear a respirator VOLUNTARILY.

Please read the following section, complete the form at the bottom, and return it to the RST Industrial Hygienist or HSE Department.

### Information for Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under KAUST Respiratory Protection Program

Respirators are an effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is sometimes encouraged, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for employees. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard to the employees. Employees may wear respirators even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the OELs. Although respirators are available for voluntary use, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard.

- 1) Read and follow all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warnings regarding the respirator's limitations.
- 2) Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. The U.S. National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) certifies respirators or the European Union EN Standards (EU). A label or statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.
- 3) Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles (e.g. N95 dust mask) will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
- 4) Keep track of your respirator so you do not mistakenly use someone else's.

Please remember the limitations of the respirator you have chosen to wear voluntarily. The Research Safety Team ([researchsafety@kaust.edu.sa](mailto:researchsafety@kaust.edu.sa)) or Health and Safety Team ([healthandsafetymatters@kaust.edu.sa](mailto:healthandsafetymatters@kaust.edu.sa)) is available should you have any questions/concerns about the respirator voluntary program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_